

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. - Matthew 6:10



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From Our State Director Sancha N. Smith



Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Louisiana!

First, thank you for your continued support through prayer, action and your financial gifts.

As CWA of Louisiana continues to stand for righteousness in government, one thing has become clear - authoritative, targeted, and fervent prayers - from a Biblical perspective - and, authoritative, targeted and fervent action - from a Biblical perspective - are both critical and effective.

Together, as we enter into 2018, may we submit to the Word of God first in prayer, as it exhorts us, "first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:1-4

May we cloth ourselves with "... the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." - Ephesians 6:11.

Our desire is that believers unite in prayer and reflect on who God is, what He desires for our great state, and then take action. We will continued to advance the strategy that was established by Mrs.

Beverly LaHaye when she founded this great organization almost 40 years ago. *We Pray ... and We Take Action!* Our mission has always been to protect and promote Biblical values and Constitutional principles through prayer, education, and advocacy. CWA is leading a movement dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ.

As you may know, our seven core issues are defense of the family, sanctity of human life, education, sexual exploitation, religious liberty, national sovereignty and support for Israel. Though we have touched on almost all of them this year, as you will see in the pages to follow, we dedicated much of our efforts to the sanctity of life, defense of the family, and sexual exploitation.

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As you read about all our growth and progress in 2017, please consider being a greater part of our efforts by giving financially to establish a strong foundation as

we enter into 2018. [Click here](#) to contribute online or fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it to the address provided. Any amount is deeply

appreciated. Your gift will help us to continue to move forward in fulfilling our call to government as we speak truth to power!

CWA of Louisiana's 2017 Accomplishments and Activities

January

- ◆ We hosted our **first Government By God's Design workshop in Lake Charles**. The four week session was well attended by local leaders and lawmakers.



- ◆ We **welcomed our newest elected officials** through written letters introducing them to CWA of Louisiana.
- ◆ We **launched Mighty 9 2017** in which each CWA of Louisiana steering committee member was assigned to one of the nine government officials: governor, two U.S. senators, and six U.S. congressmen. They each sent a postcard once a month with preprinted Scripture and then added a personal note of encouragement about our prayer for them. Throughout the year we have received personal responses of gratitude.
- ◆ Sancha spoke at St. Landry's 30th Annual Right to Life March in Opelousas sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life and the Pro-Life Apostolate of the

Diocese of Lafayette.

February

- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **participated in the Louisiana Right to Life March in Alexandria**. Our families participated in the march. We had a CWA table, and Sancha was one of the speakers.
- ◆ We **presented information on how to lobby and engage your legislators at the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women board meeting**.

March

- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **attended the Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast and Louisiana Family Forum Legislative Briefing** at the Capitol to pray for Louisiana's elected leaders, network with Louisiana's Christian leaders, and build relationships.

April

- ◆ We **launched our 2017 Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) Project**. It consisted of 52 volunteers which covered 144 legislators with encouraging words and prayer. See page 6 for more information on this outstanding project.
- ◆ As part of Sexual Assault month **Sancha and Associate Director Nedra Epps shared information about the impact of sexual abuse in our state at**

Do Tell Day of Hope Freedom Rally hosted by the Lafayette Council on the Needs of Women.

- ◆ Members **attended opening day of Louisiana's 2017 legislative session** and met with legislators on the House floor.



- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **took part in successfully lobbying for the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee, Judge Neil Gorsuch**.

May

- ◆ Members **participated in Pro-Life Day at the Capitol** sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life.
- ◆ We **hosted an EAL Day at the Capitol** in which the EAL volunteers met the legislators they were assigned to encourage. We distributed pecan candies as a "Thank You."
- ◆ We **supported Senate Bill 111** which requires proof of identification from parents of a minor child to obtain an abortion based upon parental consent. The bill passed and was signed by the governor in August. Praise the Lord!
- ◆ **Supported Senate Bill 54** which provides community resources

for victims of human trafficking. The bill passed and was signed by the governor in November. Thank the Lord!

- ◆ **Opposed House Bill 136** because it reduced the time period for interim spousal support for 365 days to 180 days. We believe women with children need the full year to recover. Unfortunately, the bill passed.

June

- ◆ Our Director, along with Dr. Alveda King, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s niece, **spoke at CWA's 100 No More prayer rallies** in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Birmingham, Alabama, to expose Planned Parenthood's racist eugenics.



- ◆ **We believe criminal justice reform will help families.** Senate Bill 139 was an overhaul of Louisiana's criminal justice system to reduce the state's prison population. However, CWA found the bill to be too lenient on crimes of violence or sexual offenses. So we **opposed SB 139**. It passed, but thankfully with strong amendments.
- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **launched a new Prayer/Action Chapter in Alexandria.** Kemberly Cole Jones is serving as acting Prayer/Action Chapter Leader.

July

- ◆ While on a trip with her family to Washington, D.C. Sancha had the opportunity to **pray inside the courtroom at the United States Supreme Court.**



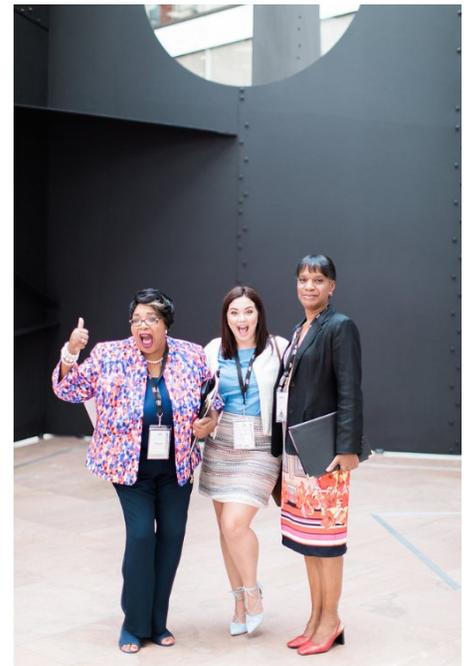
- ◆ **We began discussions with State Rep. Ronnie Johns (R-District 27) concerning the issue of sex trafficking in Louisiana.** He is the sponsor of the infamous "Stripper Bill" (SB 468) which requires young women to be 21 years old before they are allowed to strip in clubs. This legislation is currently in the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals. *Please pray* that the court will uphold the constitutionality of the statute.

August

- ◆ **We helped our children transition into the new school year** armed with information from our bookmark—*Know Your Rights ... Freedom of Speech & Religion in Public Schools.*

September

- ◆ Sancha, Nedra and Young Women for America leader Lillian Knight **attended the three day CWA Leadership Training Conference in Washington, D.C.**



We enjoyed breakfast on Capitol Hill and heard from U.S. Senators Chuck Grassley and Ted Cruz. Then we went to the White House to meet with staff.



We lobbied at Sen. Bill Cassidy's (R) office and met with his legislative director to discuss filling Federal Lower Court vacancies and addressing gridlock reform in the Senate. Later that afternoon we attended a briefing at the White House. We were updated on healthcare, opioid addiction, tax reform and mental health by former DHHS

Secretary, Tom Price; Kelly Anne Conway, Counselor to the President; Paul Teller, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Marc Short, White House Director of Legislative Affairs and Deputy Assistant to the President. CWA's tremendous influence with our current administration was more than evident.



The following day was filled with training, and the final day appropriately ended our time with a prayer service in which CWA leaders were assigned to pray in unity according to each of our core issues. Sancha led us in prayer on the issue of racial reconciliation.



- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **attended The Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium hosted by the**
- ◆ **Governor's Office of Programs and Planning and the Children's Cabinet in Baton Rouge.** We are committed to the state's efforts to stop human trafficking and provide support for those who have been victims of it.

October

- ◆ **Nedra and Janet Jackson were recipients of 2017 Women of Excellence Award by the Lafayette Council on the Needs of Women.**



November

- ◆ Our state director **spoke at Lafayette Council on the Needs of Women retreat in Lafayette about how to lobby from your kitchen table, laptop, and smartphone.**
- ◆ CWA of Louisiana **launched a new Prayer/Action Chapter in Sulphur.** Nancy Tower is serving as acting Prayer/Action Chapter Leader.

Mark Your Calendar!

As we enter 2018 seeking God's wisdom, we issue a clarion call to see God's righteousness established in government. These are some upcoming events you won't want to miss. Watch for more information to come via e-alerts and our website at la.cwfa.org on these events and more.

- January to February -
CWA Feisty & Feminine Bible Study

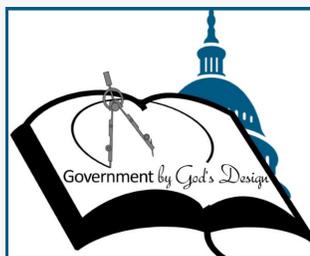
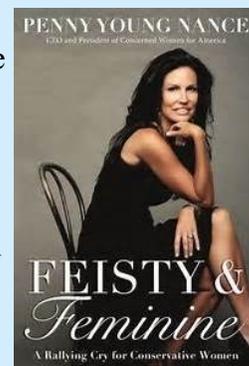
Location to be determined

- April 10 -
Attend Opening Day of the Louisiana Legislative Session
State Capitol

- Spring -
Attend Worldwide Symposium on Human Trafficking hosted by the state of Louisiana
Baton Rouge

- May -
CWA Capitol Prayer Walk and Encourage-A-Legislator Appreciation Day
State Capitol

- June -
CWA Inspired to Speak Legislative Brunch
Baton Rouge



Government by God's Design

Government by God's Design was created by one of our steering committee members, Nancy Tower. This insightful workshop series provides instruction and information which will help government

leaders honor God in their calling. This information can be presented in a formal workshop or can be taught in a Bible study format. [Click here](#) for more information.

Meet Our Newest Leaders

“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisors.” - Proverbs 11:14



Joyce Burges, Legislative Liaison

Joyce is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of the National Black Home Educators. Joyce and her husband Eric have homeschooled their children for nearly 30 years. Joyce also served as a council member in the city of Baker and was a candidate for mayor. She heard about CWA during her homeschooling years. Joyce is honored to be a part of strengthening families and contributing to the good of society. She has already begun developing relationships with the legislators in our state. Joyce and her husband have been married for 40 years and have five children and five grandchildren.



Kemberly Cole Jones, Alexandria Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

Kemberly is a USAF Security Police Veteran and has been a Licensed Practical Nurse for the past 13 years. Kemberly also founded Women of Worship, LLC in 2012. She heard about CWA through Nedra Epps and gained more information when she participated in the Louisiana Right to Life Pro-Life March in Alexandria soon after. She became a CWA Prayer/Action Chapter Leader because of the core values upon which CWA is founded. She hopes to contribute light, truth, and a sense peace and compassion to all those she encounters as a chapter leader. Kemberly is the wife of Narain Jones and the mother of four.



Kimberly's first chapter meeting



Nancy Towers, Sulphur Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

Nancy is a Board Member of the Louisiana Public Affairs Research Council and Louisiana Foundation for Excellence in Science, Technology and Education. She spent five years as a Sulphur City Council member. Nancy has been a leader with CWA of Louisiana for over a year now as Government by God's Design Coordinator and the Lake Charles Prayer/Action Chapter Leader. She has started this chapter as an interim leader. Pray with us that a permanent leader will be found soon to permanently lead the group. Nancy has been married to Ron Tower for 31 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

PARTNERSHIPS



CWA of Louisiana recognizes that we are not alone in this fight to establish righteousness in government. That is why we continue to partner with other faith-based organizations in our state.

CWA of Louisiana continues to partner with Louisiana Family Forum as a part of their coalition to support family focused legislation. We also continue to join forces with The Louisiana Right to Life Federation, as well as Black Advocates for Life, in their efforts to protect the sanctity of all life.

We are intentional and strive to deepen relationships with those in our state who fight against the plague of human trafficking. *Please pray* for God's wisdom and favor for our state leaders as they address this issue.



Attend or Start a Prayer/Action Chapter

Our Prayer/Action Chapters are the life blood of this organization. Through these monthly meetings we learn about the issues that currently affect our nation, state and families. Then, we specifically and strategically pray together about these issues. Finally, we take action. Action can mean a variety of things such as contacting legislators and encouraging them to vote according to our Biblical values, participate in a project,

discuss the issue with our pastor, write a letter to the editor, etc.

Our goal is to establish at least two chapters in each of our six congressional districts. The general areas which comprise each district are as follows:

- District 1 - Houma/Slidell
- District 2 - New Orleans/Metairie
- District 3 - Lafayette/Lake Charles/New Iberia
- District 4 - Shreveport/Natchitoches/DeRidder
- District 5 - Alexandria/Opelousas /Monroe
- District 6 - Baton Rouge

Please contact our Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator Janet Jackson today to find out if there is a chapter in your area and/or how to start one. She can be reached at 337-852-2497 or chaptercoordinator@louisiana.cwfa.org.

2018 Encourage-A-Legislator Program

This is an outstanding program that gives us the opportunity to correspond directly to our legislators in writing with thoughtful cards that contain our commitment to pray for each of them individually. This is not a lobbying effort but a ministry to the legislators. Whether a legislator is a believer, non-believer, and regardless of their political affiliation, they are in desperate need of prayer. During the 2018 legislative session (3 months), CWA of Louisiana plans to deliver those prayers. Will you join us?

That's not all! We go a step further and host an EAL Appreciation Day at the Capitol each year where we encourage them in person. For more information contact our EAL Coordinator Debbie Hoehl at encourage@louisiana.cwfa.org.

Investing in the Next Generation!

Please consider sending a final 2017 gift to CWA of Louisiana to give us a sure foundation as we enter into 2018.

It is YOUR generosity that will impact our state for future generations. If not you, then who?

Because CWA of Louisiana is run by volunteers, all donations go straight to the work at hand. When you give to the state, all funds are used in the state.

Please send us a tax-deductible gift today. Any amount is appreciated.

- ❑ Write your check out to "Concerned Women for America" and put "CWA of LA" on the memo line. Send it to CWA of Louisiana at P.O. Box 2446, Opelousas, LA 70571.
- ❑ Or, [click here](#) to contribute online.

